

THE CORNERSTONE

July 2016

Second Mile Ministries



More than 500 volunteers gathered over the weekend to transform the cafeteria of B.F. Terry High School into a resource center for families affected by the Brazos River flooding. Please pray for our neighbors and for all the volunteers, churches, organizations, agencies, governmental entities, foundations and businesses who are working together to help. This is a collaborative, communitywide effort.

We have served around 200 families with food, water and toiletries.

- If you're able to help, these items continue be in urgent need:
- Baby formula ; Ensure
- Personal hygiene items: soap, deodorant, feminine hygiene, toothpaste, toothbrushes, shampoo/conditioner,
- laundry soap. Bleach. Cleaning items
- New underwear and socks (no other clothes needed at this time)

Volunteers are needed and welcome at B.F. Terry High School (5500 Avenue N, Rosenberg, TX 77471) from 7 a.m. to 7 p.m. daily. The volunteer hotline number for more information is (832) 449-2485.

Please pray for our neighbors and for all the volunteers, churches, organizations, agencies, governmental entities, foundations and businesses who are working together to help. This is a collaborative, communitywide effort. *Thank you! Sarah White Director*



Sarah White
Executive Director



Missionaries of the Month



Jim and Lydia Munn

After five years of working overseas with Operation Mobilization, mostly *in Asia* in connection with the ministry ship, M.V.LOGOS, we joined a church-planting mission originally called "Unevangelized Fields Mission," now known as "Crossworld." The emphasis is to be "disciple-makers from all professions bringing God's love to life in the world's less-reached marketplaces."

In the last 33 years in France, we have been involved with Crossworld in evangelism, church-planting, Bible teaching, leadership development, and mentoring; and we have administered an Evening Bible School. After involvement in two church plants from 1984 to 2003, we moved to Grenoble in order to do more formal Bible teaching.

Our present ministries are . . .

- (1) Formal teaching of Bible courses in area churches and home fellowship groups (Jim, and sometimes Lydia team-teaching with Jim)
- (2) Preaching in area churches (Jim)
- (3) Sunday School teaching and teacher training (Lydia)
- (4) Discipling and mentoring (both)
- (5) Regular street evangelism (Jim)

We're looking forward with real expectation, to at least four more years of full-time ministry in the Rhone-Alps region of France, serving evangelical churches that are reaching out to French men and women with the Gospel. The evangelical churches in France have grown by 1000 percent in the last 70 years! We're optimistic about how God will continue to work in France, through French leadership, with continuing input from foreign workers like us.



Young French leaders such as Philippe, are being raised up to evangelize, make disciples, and start new churches. Philippe was in our junior high youth group who asked us to train him in street evangelism. He went on to lead 20-30 young people in 5-day evangelism campaigns. Today he is a full-time evangelist, and also in demand as an apologetic speaker. Lord, raise up many more!

Prayer/Praise summary

- Jim handed over administration of Grenoble Evening Bible School to a team of five French pastors and elders in 2015 (praise)
- Jim's future teaching ministry in Rhone-Alps regional churches: beyond Grenoble to other towns.
- Lydia's training and mentoring of Sunday School teachers.
- The ministry's funding still has some needs, in June 2016.

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Andy Woods—Pastor

THE LAST DAYS' APOSTASY OF THE CHURCH (Part 4)

Apostasy is an important yet often neglected subject when attempting to comprehend what the Bible teaches about the end times. Thus, this series of articles is dedicated toward tracing ten general, biblical characteristics of apostasy. In the previous articles, apostasy was defined as a movement within Christ's church representing a departure from known truth. It was also established that apostasy is the central sign revealed in Scripture signaling the near completion of the church's earthly mission, that warnings against apostasy consume much of the New Testament, and that these New Testament warnings relate to virtually all of Christianity's most cherished doctrines. Apostasy is also a phenomenon that occurs internally within the church, is led by individuals considered the least likely candidates to depart from truth, can happen quickly, and is ultimately satanically energized. This article will attempt to develop two more characteristics of apostasy: its destructive character and the deleterious impact it has upon those within the church who are attempting to remain faithful to God's truth.

Apostasy is Destructive

Apostasy takes a toll. Bleeding sheep, bruised feelings, and disillusioned Christians are always found in the wake of any church or group that apostatizes from the truth. The Spirit wants believers to be aware of the dangers associated with apostasy, which explains why Scripture frequently analogizes apostasy to familiar dangers from the physical world. For example, 1 Tim. 1:19-20 compares apostasy to a shipwreck when it says, "...which some have rejected, concerning the faith have *suffered shipwreck*, of whom are Hymenaeus and Alexander, whom I delivered to Satan that they may learn not to blaspheme" (italics added). When we contemplate a shipwreck we think of the tremendous loss of life and property. Yet, just as a shipwreck is harmful in the physical world, apostasy is equally as harmful in the spiritual realm. On a similar note, Paul also compared apostasy to ravenous wolves entering the flock and gorging upon innocent sheep. Acts 20:29 says, "I know that after my departure *savage wolves* will come in among you, *not sparing the flock*" (italics added).

Paul later warns, "And their message will spread like *cancer*. Hymenaeus and Philetus are of this sort, who have strayed concerning the truth, saying that the resurrection is already past; and they have *overthrown* the faith of some" (2 Tim. 2:17-18, italics added). Here, Paul analogizes apostasy to "cancer" (NKJV) or "gangrene" (NASB). We are all familiar with the destruction that "cancer" or "gangrene" can bring upon the physical body. Through the use of this metaphor Paul notes that apostasy is equally as damaging to one's spiritual health. Thus, in verse 18, Paul explains that the apostasy introduced by Hymenaeus and Philetus had overthrown or unsettled the faith of some. Here, the verb translated "overthrown" is also used in John 2:15 in reference to how Christ overturned the moneychangers' tables in the temple. Like the overturning of a table, apostasy represents a similar destabilizing influence.

We are quick to recognize danger in the physical world. We remember the Tylenol scare of the 1980's. At that time, it was discovered that some people who had taken cyanide-laced Tylenol had died. Once this was discovered, public service announcements were given, Tylenol was recalled and banned, and new protective legislation was passed all in an attempt to keep others out of harm's way. In other words, society reacted appropriately and promptly to the prospect of physical danger. While we are quick to recognize a physical threat, we are not as equally aware or vigilant in the presence of spiritual threats. Yet, Scripture, by analogizing apostasy to familiar dangers from the natural world, is explaining that apostasy is just as destructive to one's spiritual life.



Apostasy Brings Difficulty to the Man of God

Another reality associated with apostasy is the difficulty it brings upon those within Christ's church desiring to remain loyal to biblical truth. Paul said, "But evil men and imposters *will grow worse and worse*, deceiving and being deceived" (2 Tim. 3:13, italics added). He also predicted, "For the time will come when they will not endure sound doctrine, but according to their own desires, because they have itching ears, they will heap up for themselves teachers, and they will turn their ears away from the truth, and be turned aside to fables" (2 Tim. 4:3-4). Although there are many applications of these verses, they bear a striking similarity to a modern ministry philosophy that has captured the hearts of many of today's evangelical churches known as the "church growth movement." Church growth is not *per se* wrong as long as God is the one giving the growth (Matt. 16:18; Acts 2:47; 1 Cor. 3:6).

However, God-induced numerical growth is not what modern-day church growth advocates promote. Rather, what they mean by church growth is sociological polling in an attempt to determine what the unsaved want to experience in church. When such data is collected, it is concluded that the unsaved want entertainment, shorter sermons, "practical" preaching enabling them to succeed in business, and fewer references to offensive concepts such as blood, hell, sin, or Christ's second coming. The church growth movement then concludes that if the church is then repackaged to satisfy these yearnings of the unsaved, then people will flock to church thereby causing it to grow. While no one disputes that large crowds can be accumulated through the use of this methodology, the real question is, "does the end result represent God's definition of what the church is supposed to be?"

In actuality, what transpires is that the spirit of the world invades the church. Consequently, 2 Tim 3:2-4 represents the characteristics that people in the church begin to exhibit. The main thought of these verses is depicted in the opening and concluding phrases while everything else sandwiched in between amplifies this central thought. Thus, the central thrust of these verses is that men will become lovers of self (3:2a) rather than lovers of God (3:4b). Everything else in between these phrases describes the characteristics of people when they reach this state (3:2b-4a). Therefore, Paul predicts that when men become lovers of self rather than God they will exhibit the following characteristics: love of money, boastfulness, arrogance, blasphemy, disobedience to parents, unthankfulness, lovelessness, unholiness, unforgiveness, slanderous, lacking self-control, brutality, haters of good, treacherous, reckless, conceited, and pleasure lovers.

While many interpreters mistakenly apply these verses to the outside world, the world has always been this way. If the world has always exhibited these qualities, how could the world manifesting these qualities constitute a sign? Rather, 2 Timothy is a pastoral letter. Timothy, the immediate recipient of the letter, was a pastor over the church at Ephesus. Therefore, Paul is describing what people *within the church* will become like once the spirit of the world invades the church.

Some may question whether it is possible that Christ's church could so depart from truth that she is no longer governed by Him but rather by a non-Christian philosophy. Yet this very scenario was what was transpiring within the church at Laodicea (Rev. 3:14-22). There, Christ is depicted as standing outside the door of the church, knocking on the door, and seeking re-entry (Rev. 3:20). Evangelists often use this verse in order to describe Christ as standing outside the heart of the unbeliever, knocking on the door, and inviting the unbeliever to become a Christian. Although some may come to Christ through such a presentation, this is not a correct representation of the verse's context. This verse is not found in an evangelistic context. Rather, it represents a church that has so apostatized from truth that Christ has been dethroned as the church's governing authority. Consequently, Christ is portrayed as standing outside the door of *His own church* seeking re-admittance as ruler of *His own people*. In fact, Laodicea actually means "ruled by the people." Newell observes, "The name comes from *laos*, people, and *dikao*, to rule: the rule of the people: 'democracy,' in other words."

It is in this context of the spirit of the world controlling the church that Paul warns, "But know this, in the last days *perilous times* will come" (2 Tim. 3:1, italics added). We might ask, "perilous for whom?" Since 2 Timothy



is a pastoral letter, we can safely conclude that the peril or danger that Paul predicts will arrive will be the adversity experienced by Timothy as well as all other faithful pastors. Why will Timothy and others experience peril once the spirit of the world invades the church? The man of God will experience difficulty in such a setting because he will be attempting to declare God's truth before people who are not interested in listening to it but are rather more interested in having their ears tickled. Thus, pastoral work will become difficult, as the pastor will find himself battling with his own congregation.

This fact explains why Pauline warnings of apostasy are accompanied by warnings of difficulty for the pastor. For example, reference has already been made to Paul's prediction that "evil men and imposters" will grow "worse and worse" (2 Tim. 3:13). However, the preceding verse says, "Yes, and all who desire to live a Godly life in Christ Jesus *will suffer persecution*" (2 Tim. 3:12, italics added). Similarly, reference has already been made to Paul's warning that the church will no longer support a platform for the teaching of sound doctrine (2 Tim. 4:3-4). Interestingly, the subsequent verse says, "but you be watchful in all things, *endure afflictions...*" (2 Tim. 4:5, italics added). Paul warns Timothy of these coming dangers since Timothy is the one who must bear up under them as a spiritual leader attempting to be faithful to God in the midst of a church that is gradually moving away from truth. In sum, as described in this article, not only does apostasy introduce spiritual danger but it also brings adversity into the life of the faithful spiritual leader.

(To Be Continued...)

Pre-K School Supplies

- ***1 Pk of #2 Pencils***
- ***8 count small crayons;***
- ***8 count washable marker broad;***
- ***2 large glue sticks;***
- ***Manila Drawing Paper***
- ***Colored Construction Paper***
- ***1 Pair of blunt-nosed Metal Scissors***



East Fort Bend Human Needs Ministry will begin signing up those who are in need of school supplies for their children and will be handing them out on the

True Worship will give you the kind of spiritual strength that will help you carry the burden and fight the battle. **2 Cor. 12:9**

And He said to me, "My grace is sufficient for you, for My strength is made perfect in weakness." Therefore most gladly I will rather boast in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. *Ed Carpenter- A Closer Walk*

Scripture for the Month: Psalm 110:1-3

The Lord said to my Lord, "Sit at My right hand, Till I make Your enemies Your footstool." The Lord shall send the rod of Your strength out of Zion. Rule in the midst of Your enemies! Your people *shall be* volunteers In the day of Your power; In the beauties of holiness, from the womb of the morning, You have the dew of Your youth.



EAST FORT BEND



**HUMAN NEEDS
MINISTRY, INC.**

Summer Volunteer Needs



Looking for a volunteer opportunity for the summer? See the list below and contact Jordan Keyes, at jordan@humanneeds.org if you are interested in filling any of these. We'd love to have you!

Food Pantry:

- **Food Order Helpers:** responsible for preparing food orders for clients
 - Mondays from 6pm-8pm
 - Every other Wednesday from 6pm-8pm
 - 1 Friday a month from 10am-1:30pm
- **Food Pantry Screeners:** responsible for interviewing clients face-to-face and inputting their information into a computer database
 - Mondays from 6pm-8pm

Substitutes: We are also looking for volunteers to be placed on our substitute list for day and/or evening. The ideal volunteer is someone with a relatively flexible schedule who can be called with just a few days notice to come volunteer. Potential times are: M/W from 6pm-8pm or Tu/Th/F from 10am-1:30pm. Training will be provided.

- **Warehouse Helpers:** responsible for lifting and loading 30-50 lb boxes into truck
 - Thursday from 10-11 am
 - Friday from 9-10 am

Resale Shop:

- Price Tagging, Donation Sorting and/or Customer Assistance
 - M/Tu/Th/F/S, 10am-4pm (for any amount of time during that time-frame)
 - Wed, 10am-6pm (for any amount of time during that time-frame)

Here at the Ministry we are working to help victims of the recent floods. **Please consider donating any of the following items to our pantry.**

If you are donating this weekend, take the items to [Tri-City Churches Resale Shop](#) - 425 Stafford Run Road. Thank you in advance.

Adult Clothing
Baby Diapers
Formula

Water
Children Clothing
Food (non-perishables)
Personal Hygiene
Infant Clothing
Food (easy to open)
Feminine Hygiene Products
Toiletries
Socks, Underwear (New only)
Insect Spray
Disposable Cameras
Cleaning Supplies

Dear SLBC Family,

As you know, the recent flooding in the area has affected a large number of families in our community. We, the Elder Board, have endeavored to stay on top of this and with this in mind, we would like to ask you not only to continue to pray for



the affected families in the area, but also to be sure to let your assigned Elder know of any needs that you may have too, in this regard.

Currently there is a need that we do want to bring to your attention. Ron and Darlene Smith's home in Richmond, was severely affected by the flooding. Currently, they are staying with friends in College Station and travelling back and forth every day to clean up and make repairs! They are requesting **prayer and assistance** as they endeavor 1) to find a place near their home to rent temporarily so they don't have to spend 4 hours in travel every day, and 2) to remove damaged items from their home.

If you are able to assist the Smith's in any way, please contact them directly at either of the following numbers:

Ron – 832-722-3645

Darlene – 832-722-7782

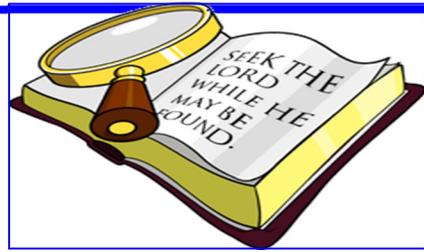
Thank you for your faithfulness to the Body of Christ in times of need. You are Christ's hands and feet and we appreciate you!

SLBC Elder Board

The Cornerstone Newsletter deadline for News articles is the 19th of each month. You can e-mail Patricia Chandler at:

earlbudc@att.net or send information to Carol Henry at Carol@SLBC.org

Ladies Bible Study



Beginning in
September 6, 2016
The Book of Colossians
will be taught by Patricia Chandler
9am—11am
Meeting in the Fellowship Hall

Betty Cooke will continue on
in Nehemiah Chapter 8 and Malachi for
the Evening class 7pm—8 pm
Betty Cooke will be teaching the
Book of Galatians beginning in
January, 2017 for both morning
and evening classes.

The date is to be determined.

CHINA TRIP--PRAYER CALENDAR

JUNE AND JULY 2016

26 Pray for organization, peace, and grace.	27 Pray for health, wisdom, safe planes, and sleep.	28 Pray for the departure for the airport around 9:00 p.m.	29 We fly out at 1:15 a.m. Pray for opportunities.	30 Arrival in China (Shanghai/Pinghu) Pray for health and protection.	1 Pray for the training there and unity among the team.	2 Pray for the team to keep their eyes on Jesus.
3 Pray for good attitudes and selflessness.	4 First Day Pray for the students to see the Light in us.	5 Pray for the students to understand.	6 Pray for wisdom and protection.	7 Pray for changes, health, peace, and rest.	8 Pray for love to flow from the team.	9 Pray for old friends to become "new."
10 Pray for a fruitful second week.	11 Pray for everyone to see a difference in us.	12 Pray for the administrators to become "new."	13 Pray for opportunities and stamina.	14 Pray for the teachers to end well in Pinghu.	15 Last Day Pray for lasting relationships and for opportunities.	16 The SLBC team will move on to Ouzhou; some others will tour.
17 Pray for the preparations for teaching in Ouzhou.	18 First Day Pray for protection and for good teaching.	19 Pray for the team members who will fly out on the 19 and 20.	20 Pray for wisdom and health for those still teaching.	21 Pray for unity, stamina, and flexibility while teaching.	22 Pray for those returning to ad-just quickly and not get sick.	23 Pray for everyone to see Christ in us.
24 Pray for a wonderful time in the Lord and rejuvenation.	25 Pray for well-behaved children and energy.	26 Continue to pray for wisdom and opportunities.	27 Pray for changed lives and lasting relationships.	28 Pray for our last days to be productive and smooth.	29 Last Day Pray for our last hours to make a huge impact.	30 We travel to Shanghai to prepare for departure.
31 Pray for a safe return home, and for health, and for no jet lag.	Please continue to pray for us as our bodies adjust to the new time zone and health.	Please continue to pray for those who have heard to know.	Thank you for your faithfulness to pray for each of us.			

China is 13 hours ahead of us. The calendar reflects CST more than Beijing time.

CHINA TRIP--PRAYER